

MASS. HS 50.103: 998/Winter

WINTER 1998

PREVENTION WORKS!

NEWS OF THE
MASSACHUSETTS
CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND

Newborn Home Visiting Contracts Awarded

The Massachusetts Children's Trust Fund (CTF) is a public-private partnership whose sole purpose is to mobilize segments of the community to prevent child abuse and neglect by strengthening and supporting families. Created by state law in 1988, CTF is charged with implementing Massachusetts' child abuse prevention plan.

The Healthy Families Newborn Home Visiting program has begun! Community-based agencies across the state have been selected to provide home visiting services to first-time parents 19 and under. CTF is reissuing the Request for Response in four regions where the submitted proposals did not adequately address the program standards: Fall River; Newton/Waltham/Woburn/Concord; South Boston/South Dorchester/Mattapan; and Worcester.

CTF is confident that, working together with the following agencies, young parents in Massachusetts will receive the support and information they need to be the best parents they can be. The lead agencies are listed by areas served: Berkshire County, *Child Care of the Berkshires*; Allston/Brighton/Brookline/West Roxbury, *Crittenton Hastings House*; Chelsea/Revere/East Boston, *ROCA*;

Continued on back page

Children's Trust Fund



Strengthening Families * Preventing Child Abuse

Friends of Children's Trust Fund

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If you are receiving multiple copies of this newsletter, or are receiving it in someone else's name, please notify us so that we may update our mailing list.

GETTING THE MESSAGE OUT

Talking to Your Kids About Safety

Today's parents are more aware than ever about the dangers that face our children. CTF has received thousands of requests for its brochure "10 Ways to Keep Children Safer" that helps parents talk to their children about personal safety. We felt it would be helpful to publish the tips.

Be calm and reassuring. A child should learn to be cautious, alert and prepared—not fearful.

Role-play with children. Children learn by doing. They need to practice and see how it feels to say NO in difficult situations. Play the "What if..." game—"What if the babysitter..." or "What if the school bus didn't arrive on time..." Help them think of several responses. Have the children practice what they would say if they feel threatened. For example, children should learn to yell in a loud voice, "This person is trying to take me!" or "This person is not my parent—I need help!"

NOTE: One of the most important facts for parents to remember is that "stranger danger" is NOT the right message—children are usually hurt by someone they know, not a stranger, so they need to be prepared to say NO in any unsafe situation, even one in which they know the adult.

Review and practice often. Research shows that, in order to be effective, safety skills need to be taught and practiced 5-10 times every year.

Set body boundaries. Teach children to guard their "private body parts"—the parts of the body covered by a bathing suit. Remind them, no one should touch your private parts. If someone does, it's okay to say NO.

Give permission to say NO, and to GO and TELL. Tell children they have the right to say NO in uncomfortable situations, even if someone threatens them. Then they should GO and TELL a trusted adult.

Teach them the buddy system. Children should learn there is safety in numbers.

Teach them to check with others first. Before changing plans or going anywhere, children should always check first with a parent or caregiver.

Help them to identify trusted adults. Talk about who a child would go to in an emergency. Cite specific examples, such as the person using the cash register at the mall, a parent with children, a teacher or a police officer.

Teach your children telephone skills. Teach them their phone number, how to dial "0" and "911" for help, and how to use a pay phone.

Insist on a FREE child assault prevention program in their school. School programs provide children with structured opportunities to practice skills and provide additional information to parents. A FREE curriculum is available to all public and private schools in Massachusetts through CTF.

save the date

CTF's 4th Annual Family Support Institute is scheduled for April 6-7 at the Royal Plaza Hotel in Marlboro. This unique training institute features all-day seminars and nationally recognized trainers. Seminars highlight model programs, best practices, policy and research in the field of family support. Institute brochures will be sent out in February to those who are on the newsletter mailing list. For more information, please call CTF.

SUPPORTING FAMILIES

What Healthy Families Newborn Home Visiting Will Look Like in Massachusetts

What is Newborn Home Visiting?

Newborn Home Visiting provides new parents with information and parenting skills in their home, at or before the time of their child's birth. It is one of the best ways to support and strengthen new families—and prevent child abuse. Home visiting services are available for all first-time mothers under the age of 20 and continue until the child reaches the age of 3. Visits are flexible in frequency, intensity, and duration in response to ongoing assessments of a family's needs and interests.

What is CTF's role?

CTF is responsible for the implementation of home visiting; for raising public awareness about home visiting; for providing training to service providers; and for ensuring program evaluation. CTF has chosen the Department of Public Health (DPH) to provide contract management and technical assistance to service providers.

Who are the home visitors?

Home visitors are trained Family Partners who work for the agencies listed in the cover article. Family Partners are trained to offer

guidance on caring for a newborn, and give support and information to parents. They connect families to existing community resources through referral and follow-up services.

Will Family Partners receive training?

The training of Family Partners is essential to the success of the program. CTF is coordinating the development of a formalized training system which has specific modules, covering core skills and content areas that reflect the diverse needs of families and the Healthy Families America standards. Training programs will be scheduled regularly throughout the Commonwealth.

How will the program be evaluated?

Experts from Tufts University's Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Development have been chosen to implement a comprehensive evaluation of the program. Department chair Dr. Francine Jacobs and Dr. M. Ann Easterbrooks are the principal co-investigators of the evaluation team, with assistance from project manager Dr. Anne Brady. Tufts is currently developing its evaluation plan and will be conducting interviews with teen parents, home visitors, private insurers, and others to determine key questions and measurement issues for the evaluation. The evaluation team will work closely with CTF, DPH and service providers to integrate data collection and the analysis of outcomes with program design and monitoring. Some outcomes to be examined include: prevention of child abuse and neglect, immunization rates, emergency and well-child visits, school and employment activities, and parent-child interaction.

volunteers

Volunteers are needed to assist CTF at a variety of community events this spring. In an effort to expand public education about the importance of child abuse prevention and family support programs, CTF participates in many community-based events where we have the opportunity to distribute our brochures, parenting tips, and safety information. Volunteers in the Worcester area were trained in early January—an additional training for interested volunteers is being scheduled for February in Boston. Other regional volunteer trainings will be scheduled based on interest. Please contact Karen Floim at CTF to learn more.

CTF Gala A Major Success★

The 1997 CTF Gala Friendraiser at the Ritz-Carlton was a milestone event: over 300 people attended, and for the first time ever, it grossed over \$100,000! CTF is grateful for everyone's support. Kudos to Beverly Pazuk, event chairperson, and the entire Gala Planning Committee for a job well done!★



Max and Marie Kargman flank UMass president William Bulger.



Boston Celtics Director of Community Affairs Wayne Levy and wife Donny get ready to bid during the live auction.★



(l to r) Guest of Honor William Bulger; his wife Mary; CTF executive director Suzin Bortley; Dorris Andersen; and Senator Thomas Nartan.★



Local television anchors mingle at the Gala. (l to r) Tary Ryden, FOX25; Karen Marinello, WB56; and WHDH-TV's Liz Clamon.★



Sports reporters Gory Gillis, WHDH-TV, and Debbie Wrableski, NESN, sample some of the sports-related auction items.★



(l to r) Attorney General Scott Harshbarger; Judith Stephenson, Esq.; Suzanne and Leonard Phillips of Zoom, Inc.★

RESOURCES

Fall River Art Contest

CTF launched the fourth annual art contest for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders in Greater Fall River on January 7, 1998. This year's theme is "Draw a picture of your family enjoying an activity together."

Public and private school children from Fall River, Westport, Swansea and Somerset are invited to submit one entry each by February 10, 1998. The Stop & Shop Supermarket Co. has generously donated the printing of the entry forms, which are available at the schools, the YMCA of Greater Fall River, and all Stop & Shop locations in Fall River and Somerset.

The first place winner in each grade will receive a bicycle and helmet. Winners will be announced

at the annual *Families Together* event at the YMCA on Saturday, April 18, 1998.

Hampshire/Franklin Counties Friendraiser Dinner April 16th

Planning is under way for the 1998 Friendraiser Dinner and Auction in Northampton. The event will be held at the Depot Restaurant on Thursday, April 16th and tickets will be \$25 per person, or \$1,000 to sponsor a table of 8. Special thanks to Carol McColl/Paradise Copies, Emmy C. Clausing and Nancy Flickinger for their ongoing volunteer commitment. If you are interested in volunteering, please call Betty Ann Krywicki at CTF.

Contributors That Care About Kids

★ Throughout October, **HallowScream 1997 at Riverside Park** in Agawam celebrated Halloween with proceeds benefiting charities which help children. CTF was one of the charities invited to participate. Under Jan Denney's leadership, members of CTF's

Springfield Committee raised over \$850 to increase public awareness about child abuse prevention. Thank you to Riverside Park and the dedicated volunteers for your support!!

★ **PARTNERS Healthcare System, Inc.** granted \$5,000 to fund the November 1997 Parenting Education Conference: *A View From All Sides*. The conference, which was sponsored by CTF, Wheelock College Graduate School Center for Parenting Studies, and the Parenting Education Network, was sold out with over 750 guests. James Garbarino, Cornell University professor and nationally recognized author, was the keynote speaker.

★ **The Dolphin Trust** granted \$10,000 to fund the design and printing of the Massachusetts School Reporting Protocol Manual for suspected incidences of child abuse and neglect.

★ **The Florence V. Burden Foundation** granted \$5,000 for general operating expenses.

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Continued from front page

North Dorchester, *Dorchester CARES*; Jamaica Plain/Roxbury, *Martha Eliot Health Center*; Brockton, *Health Care of Southeastern Massachusetts*; Cambridge/Somerville, *The Guidance Center*; Cape Cod & Islands, *Health Care of Southeastern Massachusetts*; Fitchburg, *Health Alliance/Diversified VNA*; Framingham, *Center for Development of Human Services*; Franklin County, *Franklin Community Action Corporation*; Haverhill, *VNA Care Plus*; Holyoke, *Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (MSPCC)*; Lawrence, *MSPCC*; Lowell, *MSPCC*; Melrose/Wakefield, *Melrose-Wakefield Healthcare Corp*; Milford, *Center for Development of Human Services*; New Bedford, *Kennedy Donovan Center*; North Shore (Lynn/Salem/Beverly/Gloucester), *MSPCC*; Northampton, *Children's Aid and Family Service*; Plymouth, *Kennedy Donovan Center*; Southbridge, *Worcester Community Action Council*; Springfield, *Northern Educational Services*; Taunton, *Health Care of Southeastern Massachusetts*.

If you're looking for the provider in your community, please call CTF.

Computer Companies Connect with CTF

Thanks to Microsoft Corporation's generous donation of software and consulting, CTF has a local area network and Email! Microsoft's help has saved CTF countless hours and thousands of dollars—and has made it possible for CTF to connect parents and providers with information. For example, using Access 2.0 CTF developed its Guide to Parenting Education Library materials. CTF was also one of the charities invited to participate at Microsoft's Expo in Boston. Other companies and experts who have contributed to CTF's computer system include Digital Equipment Corporation, the Commonwealth's Information and Technology Division, Office of Child Care Services, and Zoom.

CTF's next technology project is developing a Web page. If you have experience in this area, please contact Shereen Tyrrell at CTF.

WINTER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, monthly, at CTF's office in Boston, *Fathers and Family Network*, for professionals who are interested in or currently working with fathers. Please call Jack Miller at CTF for monthly meeting dates.

The following CTF training series are free and open to all CTF program applicants, past and present:

Thursday, January 22, 1998, 10am–1pm at CTF's office in Boston, *Outreach, Recruitment and Retention*

Tuesday, January 27, 1998, 10am–1pm in Florence, Mass., *Outreach, Recruitment and Retention*

Tuesday, February 3, 1998, 10am–1pm at CTF's office in Boston, *Strategies to Design and Conduct Workshops on Effective Discipline*

Tuesday, February 24, 1998, 10am–1pm at CTF's office in Boston, *Strategies to Design and Conduct Workshops on Child Development*

Thursday, February 26, 1998, 10am–1pm in Marlborough, *How to Lead a Focused Discussion*

Wednesday, March 4, 1998, 10am–1pm at CTF's office in Boston, *How to Lead a Focused Discussion*

Tuesday, March 24, 1998, 10:30am–1:30pm in Marlborough, *Strategies to Design and Conduct Workshops on Child Development*

Please call Amy Stack at CTF for additional information on the training series.

PREVENTION WORKS!

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April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

The Massachusetts Children's Trust Fund (CTF) is a public-private partnership whose sole purpose is to mobilize segments of the community to prevent child abuse and neglect by strengthening and supporting families. Created by state law in 1988, CTF is charged with implementing Massachusetts' child abuse prevention plan.

Child abuse and neglect is the leading cause of death for children ages 4 and under. Not car accidents. Not choking. Not drowning. *Child abuse and neglect.* Last year in Massachusetts, over 100,000 cases of child maltreatment were reported, a five percent increase of reports from the previous year.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. You might say, "This problem is too overwhelming. How can anyone help?" The answer is prevention. CTF recognizes that all parents need and deserve support in their challenging role, and we work to provide parenting education and family support so child abuse can be prevented.

The costs of child abuse to society are enormous. Approximately 73 percent of the 3,000 youths in Department of Youth

Continued inside

Children's Trust Fund



Strengthening Families * Preventing Child Abuse

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GETTING THE MESSAGE OUT

CTF To Launch Innovative Public Service Campaign For Fathers

CTF is proud to announce its selection as the 1998 recipient of the Ad Club Public Service Campaign to develop a message about the importance of fathers' involvement in their children's lives. Annually, the Advertising Club of Greater Boston chooses a local nonprofit organization and matches it with an

advertising agency, which then completes a public service campaign focusing on a major initiative of the organization. The campaign, which is being developed by ad agency Cohn Godley Norwood, will include television, radio and print advertising, and will kick off in June close to Father's Day.

Newborn Home Visiting Campaign Under Way

CTF's largest family support initiative to date is the Healthy Families newborn home visiting program, which provides home visits to all first-time teen parents in Massachusetts. Newborn home visiting programs have been proven to significantly reduce the risk of child abuse and neglect. A public education campaign, created by CC and D Communications, is currently under way. The focus of the campaign is to encourage young parents to use the free program. The campaign uses television, radio and print advertising, as well as public events around the state, to raise awareness and reach these young families.



Healthy Families spokeswomen Brenda Garton (WWLP-TV22 Springfield) on left, and Tary Ryden (FOX25-Boston) on right, chat with teen mom Jennifer and her baby Jessica at the recent press conference to kick-off the campaign.

Meet and Greet CTF Staff at Upcoming Conferences

An important way to educate the public about the prevention of child abuse is through conferences and fairs where CTF is able to disseminate information to parents and professionals. CTF will have a booth and staff members at the following upcoming events: Parents' Plus Family Forum at Boston University, March 28 & 29; New England Health Care Assembly at the Hynes Convention Center on March 31 through April 1; Boston's Biggest Baby Faire at the Bayside Expo Center on April 4 & 5; and the Partners in Perinatal Health Conference at the Crowne Plaza, Worcester on April 28.

The deadline to apply for a parenting education and support (PESP) grant is approaching! CTF annually awards grants of up to \$2,500 to fund community-based parenting education programs serving parents of children ages 0-6. In FY '98, CTF funded 80 PESP programs statewide. Proposals are due May 1, 1998 to CTF. If your organization would like to apply, please call Amy Stack at CTF.

Child Abuse Prevention Month

Continued from front page

Services custody were abused or neglected. A 1995 study of homeless women found that 67 percent had been victims of child abuse. Nationally, near-fatal abuse and neglect each year leaves 18,000 permanently disabled children.

Child Abuse

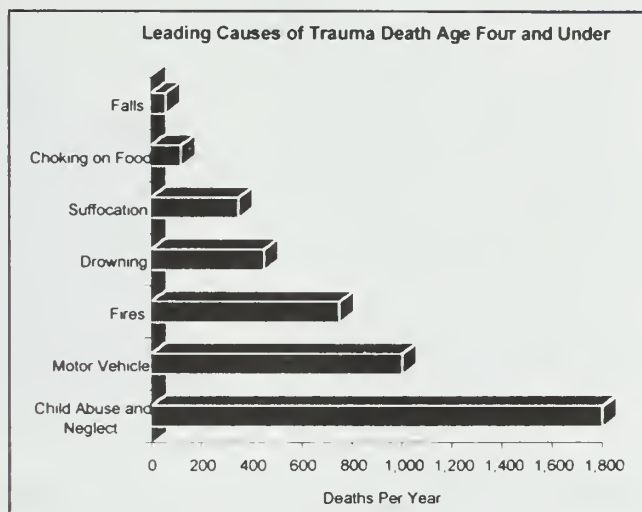
Prevention Month helps to raise the level of awareness about family support initiatives and recognize programs that help to prevent child abuse. Information is key—the more information, education and support we can help provide to parents, the better they will be in their capacity to raise healthy, happy children.

Contributors That Care About Kids

★ The **Prudential Foundation** granted \$5,000 for MELD Young Moms program.

★ **PARTNERS HealthCare** granted \$5,000 for CTF's Family Support Institute in April '98.

★ **Work/Family Directions** granted \$2,500 for CTF's Family Support Institute in April '98.



Source: U.S. Advisory Board on Child Abuse and Neglect,
A Nation's Shame: Fatal Child Abuse and Neglect
in the United States, April 1995.

April is Child Abuse Prevention month.

What can YOU do to help families and children?

- Lend a friendly ear when parents you meet throughout your day express a need to share their experiences or frustrations.
- Reach out to a child at risk—it can make a positive difference in his or her life. Showing an interest with kind, supportive words is a good way to begin.
- Use the power of the written word. When you see children's issues that need attention, write letters to your local newspaper or legislators.
- Take an active role in making your neighborhood's streets, parks and playgrounds welcoming and safe places for children of all ages.
- Support prevention. Support CTF. See enclosed envelope for more information about how you can make a positive difference for children in Massachusetts.

Hampshire/Franklin Counties Annual Friendraiser Set for Spring

The second annual Friendraiser is set for **Thursday, April 16, 1998** at the Depot Restaurant in Northampton from 6-9 p.m. Brenda Garton, news anchor for NBC affiliate WWLP-TV22 Springfield, will serve as Mistress of Ceremonies.

Tickets for the buffet dinner event, which also includes a silent and live auction, are \$25 per person. The event is chaired by

Southampton resident and CTF board member Betty Ann Krywicki.

Last year's event raised over \$8,000 which funded parenting education and family support programs in Hampshire/Franklin counties. See article below for one program that was funded by this event.

For more information, please call CTF.

Spotlight on Success: Hilltown Community Health Centers

Hilltown Community Health Centers, Inc. is running "Nurturing Your Infant" at their centers located in Worthington and Huntington. This 8-week series provides an opportunity for new parents in very rural and underserved communities to come together for parenting education, support, and to connect with other parents of infants. Core aspects of the program include promoting bonding and positive touch by teaching parents infant massage, stress reduction, child development, and appropriate ways to handle anger and frustration.

Lack of transportation, a widely dispersed population, and the unfamiliarity of available services make it difficult to run a group in rural areas. However, the staff of Hilltown Community Health Centers and program facilitator Lee MacKinnon were able to overcome many barriers and had a "phenomenal" group for their first series this past fall. MacKinnon reports that the group really did connect. In fact, the parents plan to keep meeting in each others' homes on a weekly basis.

MacKinnon commented, "Thank you for the support to this rural area. I can't tell you how frequently participants commented on the value of talking to each other and how isolated they felt before the group started."

Participating parents came away from the series with some of the following messages about the program:

"I think it's an invaluable resource and opportunity to learn about parenting and to meet other mothers and fathers."

"It was truly a pleasure—I hope we can all meet again when our babies are toddlers."

"The most important benefit of the program was the sense of confidence about myself as a mom."

EXPANDING RESOURCES

CTF's 10th Birthday Celebration

Did you know it's CTF's birthday? Join us as we celebrate our 10th! The celebration takes place on **Wednesday, April 29** from 6–8:00 p.m. at the Ritz-Carlton Rooftop and includes cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, a giant birthday cake and a balloon auction with exciting prizes!

Tickets are \$50 per person and **the event is limited to 250 people**—don't miss out!



Fall River Family Fun Day

Parents and children from the Greater Fall River area are invited to join CTF and the YMCA of Greater Fall River for our annual "Families Together" Family Fun Day on **Saturday, April 18, 1998** from 12 noon–3 p.m. at the YMCA. Participants will enjoy interactive activities, music, story-telling, food and more—all for FREE!

Senate Majority Leader Thomas Norton, Representative Mike Rodrigues, Representative David Sullivan and Fall River Mayor Edward M. Lambert, Jr. are all expected to join in the festivities. Winners of the annual "Families Together" Art Contest will be announced by Senator Norton. For more information, please call CTF.

Walk to Show Support for Families!

Step out for CTF's annual Hampden County 3K Walk! The walk, which takes place in Springfield on **Saturday, May 16th**, brings the community together in an effort to support families and prevent child abuse. The walk will be led by honorary hosts including Brenda Garton of WWLP-TV22; Bo Sullivan of WHYN NewsTalk 560; CTF Board Chair Ed Bailey, MD; Senators Brian Lees and Linda Melconian; Representatives Paul Caron and Benjamin Swan; Springfield Mayor Michael Albano;



and Springfield Chief of Police Paula Meara.

Watch WWLP-TV22 for a PSA promoting the event during the weeks before the walk, and step out on May 16th to show your support!

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**Join CTF Donors Across the Commonwealth.
Support parents. Prevent child abuse.
Donate to CTF!**

"I was abused as a child and when I became a parent, what I feared most was that I would abuse my children too. But I learned that I can change and be the parent I want to be. I wish my parents had learned what I have learned."

One participant
in a parenting program
supported by the Children's Trust Fund

Your donation makes these family support activities possible:

- **Healthy Families**—the largest universal, voluntary newborn home visiting program in the United States—serving 3,000 eligible first-time teen parents.
- **Seven Family Centers** across the Commonwealth offering a variety of programs for 2,600 families.
- **Four comprehensive parenting education models**—MELD Young Dads in Dorchester, MELD Young Moms in Brockton, Exitos-AVANCE for Spanish-speaking mothers in New Bedford, Nurturing Program for Spanish/English-speaking families in Fitchburg—serving 82 parents with 110 children.
- **Eighty community-based organizations** that offer 160 parenting education programs—serving 2,600 parents with 4,000 children throughout Massachusetts.

***Invest in prevention because prevention works!
Please use the attached envelope. Thank you.***

SPRING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, monthly, 12 noon to 2 p.m., at CTF's office in Boston, **Fathers and Family Network**, for professionals who are interested in or currently working with fathers. Please call Jack Miller at CTF to be included on the Fathers and Family Network mailing list and to find out monthly meeting dates.

NEW! Fathers and Family Network in Western Mass.! Please call Jack Miller at CTF for upcoming meeting dates and times.

Thursday, April 16, 1998, 6 to 9 p.m., at the Depot in Northampton, **2nd Annual Western Mass. Friendraiser**.

Saturday, April 18, 1998, 12 noon to 3 p.m., at the YMCA of Greater Fall River, **"Families Together" Family Fun Day**.

Wednesday, April 29, 1998, 6 to 8:30 p.m., at the Ritz-Carlton Rooftop, **CTF 10th Birthday Celebration**.

Friday, May 1, 1998, 5 p.m., **PESP Proposals due** at CTF's office in Boston.

Saturday, May 16, 1998, Springfield, Mass., **Hampden County 3K Walk**.

For more information, call toll free 1-888-775-4KIDS



PREVENTION WORKS!

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NEWS OF THE
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CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND

Happy Father's Day from CTF!

Dads make a difference! Recent research demonstrates that when fathers play a positive role in their children's development, BOTH the father and the children reap many benefits. For children, the outcomes include: better cognitive, coping and problem-solving skills, and lower school drop-out rates.

For dads, the outcomes are better health, higher job satisfaction, and a more positive self-image.

Recognizing that dads have a unique and important role in the parenting experience, CTF has made many steps forward to reach out to and be more inclusive of dads. For example:

► For Father's Day, CTF will launch a statewide public education campaign with the message, "Anyone can be a father. It takes time to be a dad." The campaign was developed by Cohn Godley Norwood as part of the Advertising Club of Greater Boston's annual public service campaign. Watch for these ads over the next several months on your local media!

► CTF's unique Father's & Family Network (FFN) has grown to include over 300 family

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and supporting families.

Continued inside

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SUPPORTING FAMILIES

Happy Father's Day

Continued from front page

support providers who share an interest in working with fathers in group settings. Two groups convene once a month, both in Boston and in Western Mass. The FFN shares information among programs, provides networking opportunities, and increases awareness of successful strategies for working with dads.

► CTF has developed a statewide resource guide that lists programs geared towards fathers. Please call CTF to receive a free copy of the guide.

► The first MELD for Young Dads parenting program in New England was launched in January. (Please see related article under "Spotlight on Success.")



TheMOM

Anyone can be a father. Make time. Be a dad. Call 1-800-775-4KIDS

Children's Trust Fund
Supporting families & promoting child care

An advertisement from CTF's new ad campaign

Contributors That Care About Kids

★ The Polaroid Foundation

granted \$18,000 to support Exitos-Avance in New Bedford.

★ The following companies supported the annual Hampshire/Franklin Counties friendraiser with a donation of \$1,000 or more:

**The Depot Restaurant,
Easthampton Savings Bank,**

Florence Savings Bank, Carol Jane Hyde, MassWest Insurance Company, Inc., Northampton Cooperative Bank, Paradise Copies, Inc., Pioneer Valley Travel, SIS Bank, and United Bank.

★ **The Fall River Rotary Club** granted \$500 for CTF's annual Fall River Family Fun Day.

★ **Houghton Mifflin and Little Brown Co.** each donated a supply of children's classics to CTF for the Family Support Award Winners.

★ The following companies have committed to donating products that will be used in Welcome Baby packages for new parents in the Healthy Families Newborn Home Visiting Campaign:

American Safety Razor, Block Drug, Chesebrough-Ponds, The First Years, Gerber Children's Wear Inc., Johnson & Johnson, and The Stop & Shop Supermarket Company.

SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS

MELD for Young Dads, Dorchester

The first **MELD for Young Dads** parenting program in New England hosted an open house in January at the Dennison House in Dorchester. Dozens of community leaders, MELD advisory board members and dads were on hand to celebrate the opening.

MELD is a nationally recognized and comprehensive parenting education support program. **MELD for Young Dads** focuses on young fathers ages 15–25 in an effort to help them become better, more confident parents.

MYD gathers weekly over a two-year period. Each group is led by trained facilitators who were once young dads themselves and who can relate firsthand with the young fathers. The program focuses on the strength of the father, with the following goals:

- to provide information and support to young fathers who are examining what role they might play in their child's life
- to help young fathers address the societal and interpersonal barriers to their involvement with their child
- to provide information about child rearing and child development that will help the fathers develop positive relationships with their children
- to influence communities to recognize the needs and motivations of young fathers

"Why was Dorchester chosen for the program? Because of the strength and resources in the community," said JoAnn Luppino of Dorchester CARES, who along CTF and The Federated Dorchester Neighborhood House, sponsor MELD for Young Dads. The first year of this program is also funded by The Riley Foundation.

Twenty-two young dads have been recruited to participate in the Dorchester program.

"The MELD for Young Dads program offers both unique and



Participants in the Meld Young Dads program/Dorchester enjoy a recent outing to a Boston Celtics game.

powerful opportunities for participating fathers to contribute to the healthy development and well-being of their children," says Michel Adjibodou, Site Coordinator for MYD. "Clearly, these 22 dads recognize the important roles that they play in helping their young children grow and learn."

For more information on MELD or MELD Young Dads, call Site Coordinator Michel Adjibodou at the Dennison House in Dorchester at (617) 474-1119.

volunteers

Volunteers Needed in Western Mass.!!

CTF needs your help on **Saturday, October 17 and Sunday, October 18** at the annual HallawScream Event at Riverside Park in Agawam, MA. Volunteers are needed at the Trick or Treat Village from 11:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. All proceeds raised at this attraction support CTF! Please call Arlene Heiss (ext. 305) at CTF for details.

Spring Events Raised Funds, Brought Families Together



Three parents and CTF-funded programs receive Family Support Awards from the First Lady of Massachusetts and CTF board member Jan Garnett Cellucci. Front L to R: Medford Family Network's Marie Cassidy, program coordinator, and Rabin Memory Frast, award winner & parent; Jan Garnett Cellucci; Valuing Our Children's Maggie Britt, award winner & parent in the Athol/Orange program, and Jaanna Fisher, program coordinator. Back L to R: MELD Young Mums program coordinator Kathy Kelley and Heather Pawell, award winner & parent in the Brackton program; Suzin Bartley, CTF executive director



CTF Legislative Breakfast honors Senator Thomas Birmingham and Representative Barbara Gardner for their commitment to children and families in Massachusetts. L to R: Senator Thomas Birmingham and CTF Board member Lee Woodswarth

Second Annual Hampshire/Franklin Counties Friend-raiser grosses over \$16,500!!!
L to R: WWLP-TV22 Anchor Brenda Garton, CTF executive director Suzin Bartley, and event chair Betty Ann Krywicki at the Depot Restaurant in Northampton



RESOURCES

Together in Support of Child Abuse Prevention

Over 400 parents and children participate in Fall River Family Fun Day!!

"Families Together" Art Contest award winners pose with their prizes.

Back L to R: Karen Almeida, aide to Representative Michael Rodrigues; Senator Thomas Norton; Suzin Bortley



CTF celebrates its 10th Birthday! Birthday Party Planning Committee members (L to R) Tara Cullen, Heather Bell, Susan Lee, and Marian Kassler



Hampden County steps out to show support for families! L to R: Senator Brian Lees, Brenda Gorton, Representative Anthony Scibelli, and Senator Linda Melcanian helped to lead CTF's annual walk in Springfield

Healthy Families Program Update

Over 250 Healthy Families staff have completed 64 hours of training to date.

As of May, over 1,000 families have enrolled in the Healthy Families program.

The public education campaign is well under way!

A special thank you to the television and radio stations who donated production and air-time to Healthy Families parenting tip PSAs featuring their anchors: WSBK-TV Boston/Margie Reedy; WFXT-TV Boston/Tory Ryden; WWLP-TV Springfield/Brenda Garton; and JAM'N 94.5 Boston/Pebbles.

If you would like to refer a first-time teen parent to the Healthy Families program in their community, please call 1-888-775-4KIDS, ext. 313.

SAVE the date

**CTF's annual Gala
Friend-raiser & Auction**
October 24, 1998
at the Ritz-Carlton Boston

**"A View From
All Sides"—CTF's
annual Parenting
Education Conference**
November 2, 1998
at the Royal Plaza in Marlboro

PESP Grant Announcements in July!

The FY '98 CTF Parenting Education and Support Programs (PESPs) have completed a successful year! Program grants for the next fiscal year, FY '99, will be announced in July.

ATTENTION GOLFERS!



Here's your chance to golf and support CTF! Please join us on **Thursday, August 6** at the Colonial Hilton & Resort in Lynnfield for the Rust Charity Golf Tournament to Benefit CTF. Breakfast at 7:00 a.m., tournament begins at 8:00 a.m. Entry fee of \$600/Foursome includes green fees, golf cart, prizes, continental breakfast and a Texas Barbeque Lunch! Sponsorship opportunities also available—please call Arlene Heiss (ext. 305) at CTF for more info.



PREVENTION WORKS!

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NEWS OF THE
MASSACHUSETTS
CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND

Healthy Families, Reaching Positive Outcomes

Healthy Families, CTF's newest family support initiative, reaches out to teen parents to provide ongoing support and parenting information through regular home visits. Since late winter when the program began, over 1,000 young families have enrolled statewide.

The Massachusetts
Children's Trust Fund
(CTF) is a public-private
partnership whose sole
purpose is to mobilize
segments of the community
to prevent child abuse and
neglect by strengthening
and supporting families.

This innovative program has caught the attention of the local media, including WBZ-TV and WSBK-TV. In these television interviews, young parents in this program revealed that their home visitors were providing encouragement to complete school, giving guidance on finding day care programs, and helping to connect them to community resources.

One teen mother in Chelsea got involved because she didn't feel she had the skills she needed to be a good parent. She reported that participation in the Healthy Families program increased her knowledge, bolstered her confidence and gave her the skills and support to be the kind of mom she really wants to be.

Continued inside

Children's Trust Fund



Strengthening Families * Preventing Child Abuse

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If you are receiving multiple copies of this newsletter, or are receiving it in someone else's name, please notify us so that we may update our mailing list.

SUPPORTING FAMILIES

Healthy Families, Reaching Positive Outcomes

Continued from front page

The Massachusetts Healthy Families program is successful because the home visitors work individually with each parent.

These quotes show that the programs are well on their way to reaching positive outcomes for children and families.

"The home visitor is somebody who cares, somebody who is there when you need them. You can't say that about a lot of people these days."

*Teen dad,
Healthy Families program*

"I live with my mother but I don't always feel comfortable talking to her about things—I can talk to my home visitor."

*Teen mom,
Healthy Families program*

"We talk about safety, child development, and health. A lot of times, we just talk—about how they are doing, their relationships and their goals. It's all about building trust."

*Home visitor,
Healthy Families program*



"The Healthy Families evaluation team has met with program participants, and 93% expressed great satisfaction with the program and with their home visitor. For any program, that's a great number; for a new program, it's outstanding."

*Anne Brady, Project Manager,
MA Healthy Families Evaluation,
Tufts University*

Benefits of home visiting programs for mothers include:

- Reducing subsequent unplanned pregnancies
- Increasing their capacity to become economically independent
- Increasing their likelihood of completing school

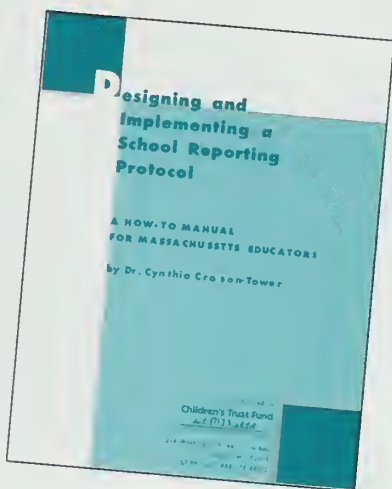
STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

CTF Releases One-of-A-Kind Manual for School Systems

CTF is proud to announce the publication of a guide to help educators better respond to child abuse or neglect.

Designing and Implementing a School Reporting Protocol: A How-To Manual for Massachusetts Educators, written by Dr. Cynthia Crosson-Tower, is the only publication of its kind in the country.

National research indicates that teachers and other professionals make 52 percent of child maltreatment reports. Yet many schools lack or use outdated child abuse reporting procedures, leaving teachers unprepared, uninformed, and isolated.



Have your school principal contact CTF to receive a free copy of the manual.

Parenting Education Grants Awarded

In July, 65 organizations were awarded grants of up to \$2,500 each to run parenting education and support programs (PESPs). In all, over \$146,000 was distributed among communities across the state. This seed money will allow local programs to take root and address the needs and interests of local parents.

The PESPs have the following goals:

- To provide direct support and education to parents of children ages birth to six years
- To promote the development of supportive relationships among parents
- To increase parents' access to information by connecting them to community resources

The following are examples of the variety of programs that will be offered:

WarmLines Parent Resources, Inc. provides groups for first-time mothers and their newborns living in the greater Newton area.

The ARC of Franklin County will hold groups in Greenfield and Athol for parents with cognitive limitations.

Family Service, Inc. in Lawrence is offering a program called "Nurturing at Los Amigos" for Latino families.

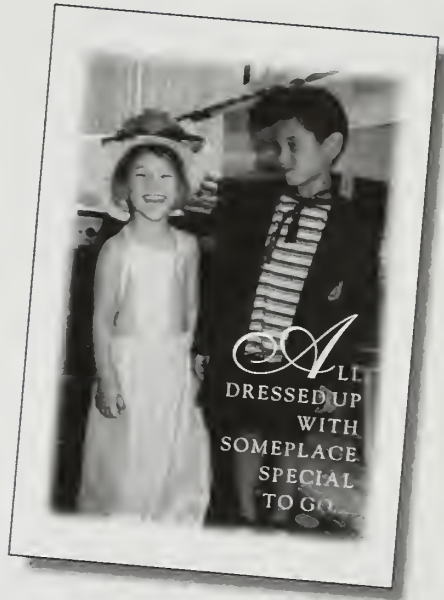
In Dorchester, **The Horizon's Initiative** is offering an evening series of "The Parenting Journey" for parents who are or were homeless.

Join us for a Gala Evening at the Ritz!

Honorary hosts Dee and Tammy Brown invite you to join us for CTF's annual Gala Friendraiser on Saturday, October 24 at the Ritz-Carlton Boston.

Bid on exciting auction items! You could win the opportunity for your child to be a Celtics ball boy/girl at an upcoming game. Treat your favorite teens to two front row tickets to the JAM'N 94.5 SuperJam Concert, complete with limo to the show. Bring home a unique hand-painted caricature chair by renowned artist Kathy Callahan.

The black tie affair includes a buffet dinner, live and silent auctions, dancing and more. Join us for the fun and festivities while helping to raise money to support children and families in Massachusetts.



1998 Gala Invitation

Friends for Children Annual Benefit to be Held November 19

CTF Board member Lee Woodsworth hosts the annual "Irish Christmas," an event to benefit CTF and other organizations that support families and children. Last year's benefit raised \$10,000 for CTF. The event will take place at Clery's (formerly The Claddagh), 119 Dartmouth Street, Boston, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Donations are accepted in lieu of tickets.

August Golf Tournament Raised \$5,000 in Support of CTF

Rust Environment and Infrastructure held its annual charity golf tournament in August. This year CTF was chosen to be the recipient of the proceeds. If your company hosts a charity golf tournament and is interested in collaborating with CTF, please contact Emily Docken at ext. 310 for more information.

Participants in the recent golf tournament include: Pete Pervis, Dave Zelickman, and Craig O'Connell, all of Crum and Forster Insurance Co. of Boston; and event chairperson Chris Benisch, Insurance Marketing Agencies, Inc. of Boston (second from right).



Volunteers from Blue Cross/Blue Shield Lend A Hand

A team of 15 dedicated volunteers recently spent two days at CTF assembling Welcome Bags for Healthy Families teen parents.

A variety of items were donated to CTF to be distributed, including baby nail clippers, baby shampoo, cotton balls, and parenting information booklets.

Companies that have donated products for the bags include: **American Safety Razor, Block Drug, BlueCross/BlueShield, Brigham's, Chesebrough-Ponds, CVS, Johnson & Johnson, Parents' Plus, The First Years** and



Blue Cross/Blue Shield employees Diane Perry and Sue Marshalka, R.N. volunteer at CTF.

The TJX Foundation. The Stop & Shop Supermarket Company assisted with the solicitation of these companies.

Contributors That Care About Kids

★ **The W. K. Kellogg Foundation** granted \$400,923 over three years to support the evaluation of the Healthy Families program.

★ **The Mabel Louise Riley Foundation** granted \$25,000 to MELD Young Dads in Dorchester.

★ **United Way of Mass. Bay** granted \$15,000 for the expansion of the Healthy Families public education campaign.

★ **Fleet Investment** granted \$10,000 in support of MELD Young Dads in Dorchester.

★ **The Harold Brooks Foundation** granted \$10,000 in support of MELD Young Moms in Brockton.

★ **The Stop & Shop Supermarket Company** donated \$10,000 to supplement the Healthy Families public education program.

★ **Work/Family Directions** granted \$6,500 for three special programs of 3 sessions each for young dads in Dorchester.

★ **Main Street Textiles** granted \$5,000 for PESPs in Fall River and Lowell.

★ **PARTNERS HealthCare** granted \$5,000 in support of the November 1998 Parenting Education Conference.

★ Employees of **New England Management** contributed \$600 from their company casual day to CTF for general operating expenses.

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A View From All Sides: CTF sponsors 6th Annual Parenting Education Conference on November 2, 1998

CTF, in partnership with Wheelock College and The Parenting Education Network of Massachusetts, is sponsoring "A View From All Sides" conference for parent educators. The conference will explore effective models for working with parents and families, and practical knowledge and recent research on issues of relevance.

Brenda Garton, news anchor for WWLP-TV 22 in Springfield, will

receive the annual Recognition Award for her commitment to children and families through media reporting.

The conference will take place on Monday, November 2 at the Royal Plaza Hotel in Marlboro, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For registration information, please call Barbara Edelin at (617) 806-1224.

HELP US GET THE WORD OUT!

CTF has Healthy Families brochures and Fatherhood Kits available. If your company or organization would like to distribute or display these materials, please call CTF.

CTF CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September - December

Friday, monthly, 12 noon to 2:00 p.m., at CTF's office in Boston, *Fathers and Family Network*, for professionals who are interested in or currently working with fathers. Please call Jack Miller at CTF, ext. 308 to be included on the Fathers and Family Network mailing list and to find out monthly meeting dates. Meetings are also offered regularly in Western Mass.

Wednesdays, October 7, 14, and 21, 4:00 to 4:50 p.m. Satellite broadcast, various locations. CTF and the Massachusetts Corporation for Educational Telecommunication (MCET) present *Parent-Infant Interactions: Promoting Positive Relationships*. Please call MCET at (617) 252-5700 for more information.

Saturday, October 17 & Sunday, October 18, 12 Noon to 8:00 p.m. *HallowScream at Riverside Park* in Agawam, MA. Stop by the Trick-or-Treat Village—all proceeds support CTF.

Saturday, October 24, 7:00 p.m., at The Ritz-Carlton Boston, *CTF Annual Gala Friendraiser Dinner and Auction*.

Monday, November 2, 8:30 a.m., at the Royal Plaza Hotel, Marlboro, *"A View From All Sides"*—Annual parenting education conference. Pre-registration required.

Thursday, November 19, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Clery's (formerly The Claddagh), Boston, *Friends for Children Annual "Irish Christmas" Benefit*.

